Yellow Fever

**Yellow fever** is an acute viral disease. In most cases, symptoms include fever, chills, loss of appetite, nausea, muscle pains and headaches. Symptoms typically improve within 3 – 5 days.

In some people within a day of improving, the fever comes back, abdominal pain occurs, and liver damage begins causing yellow skin. If this occurs, the risk of bleeding and kidney problems is also increased which can be fatal.

**TRANSMISSION**
The disease is caused by the yellow fever virus and is mainly transmitted through the bite of the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

**TREATMENT**
Patients with yellow fever should be hospitalized for treatment. Aspirin and NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs) should **not** be given in suspected cases of yellow fever.

There is no known cure for yellow fever.

**PREVENTION**
Personal prevention of yellow fever includes **vaccination**, use of insect repellant and avoidance of mosquito bites in areas where yellow fever is endemic.

**VACCINE**
*Yellow fever vaccine* is protects against yellow fever. Immunity against the virus appears to be lifelong. It is given either by injection into a muscle or just under the skin.

Trinidad and Tobago is considered a country whereby there is risk of transmission of yellow fever. As such, many countries require that persons traveling from Trinidad and Tobago be vaccinated against the virus.

Mild side effects may include headache, muscle pains, pain at the injection site, fever, and rash.

Persons who are allergic to eggs, chicken proteins or gelatin should **not** get the vaccine. The vaccine is generally very safe however, there is a very small risk of a yellow fever-like disease associated with the vaccine.